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ABSTRACT

This document contains a summary descriptive analysis of a sample of 19,716 students who took the ACT test (American College Testing Program) and were enrolled in the public community colleges of Illinois during the fall 1975 term. The sample of students represented 12% of the total freshman enrollment and 20% of the full-time freshman enrollment in the public community colleges. Data indicated: (1) the ACT composite score for Illinois public community college freshmen was 17.3 and their average high school grade point average (GPA) was 2.6; (2) the public college freshmen had lower ACT scores and GPA's when compared to all Illinois college-bound students and as compared to national norms; (3) 50% of the students indicated they planned to apply for financial assistance and 56% anticipated working while in college; (4) 32% planned to obtain a two-year degree, 7% aspired to a less than two-year certificate, and 56% aspired to a bachelor's degree; (5) health and business and commerce professions were tied in popularity as the first vocational choice (18%) of the community college freshmen; and (6) "field of study" was cited by 47% of the students as the single most important factor in making their college choice, while 22% cited tuition cost as the most important factor. Sixteen tables of data presented throughout the report reflect analyses of selected student characteristics. (JDS)



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ABSTRACT OF THE ACT CLASS PROFILE FOR 1975-76 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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PREFACE

Studies on the characteristics of community college students are of particular interest to the local colleges, the Illinois Community College Board, and to other state agencies. For this reason the ICCB has made arrangements to purchase the ACT data for students enrolled in Illinois public community colleges. This data will serve as a part of the Student Characteristics Subsystem of the new Management Information System at the ICCB. Data that is available from outside sources is relatively inexpensive to obtain and saves the local institutions much time and effort in providing this data for their students. The ICCB has on file ACT Class Profile reports for Illinois public community college students who took the ACT tests for every year since 1969.

The primary use of the ACT profile of students enrolled in Illinois public community colleges is to enable the local community colleges to compare the characteristics of their students with the characteristics of other community college students in the state rather than with college and university students. The characteristics of community college students are distinctly different from those of university students. For example, the community college students have lower average ACT scores overall, different special educational needs, different educational asperations, and different reasons for going to college than students attending senior institutions.

Although the reader may wish to use the entire ACT Cl 3 Profile Report of 1975-76 Illinois public community college freshmen for detailed study and comparison, this abstract is prepared to give a brief overview of the highlights contained in that report and to provide a comparison of the characteristics of Illinois community college students with state and national norms. The format presented in this abstract might also serve as a model for a brief profile of student characteristics at the local community college. A copy of the entire ACT Class Profile Report is being mailed to the Director of Institutional Research at each community college. Persons who wish to study this report but do not have one available may use the copies on file at the ICCB Office.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. This report showed that the average ACT composite score for Illinois public community college freshmen who took the ACT test was 17.3 and their average high school grade point average was 2.6 (C+). The average score on the various tests were as follows: English 16.5, Mathematics 16.2, Social Studies 16.3, and Natural Science 19.6.
- 2. The comparison of average ACT scores and high school grade averages of Illinois public community college Fall 1975 freshmen with all Illinois College bound students and national norms for all college freshmen shows that both the state and national norms are higher than the average ACT scores and high school grade averages of Illinois public community college students. This reflects the fact that the public community colleges have open admission policies rather than selective admission which is often based on a minimum ACT score and high school grade average at most four-year institucions.
- 3. One-half (50%) of all community college freshmen taking the ACT test indicated that they would apply for financial aid assistance with an additional 56% indicating they expected to work while in college and would like some assistance in locating employment.
- 4. Community college freshmen who took the ACT test indicated a need for assistance in choosing a major (44%) for improving Math skills (56%) and for improving study skills (43%).
- 5. Illinois public community college Fall 1975 freshmen who took the ACT test expressed the following educational degree aspirations: 32% of the students aspired to obtain a two-year degree, 7% aspired to obtain a certificate of less than two years in length while 56% of the students aspired a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 6. Health and Business and Commerce professions tied in popularity as the first vocational choice (18%) of the Illinois public community college freshmen taking the ACT test. These two fields were also selected as the most often planned educational majors. Business and Commerce area was the most popular major (18%) with health professions second (17%).
- 7. The single most important factor in making a college choice by the 1975-76 freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges who took the ACT test was "Field of Study" which was selected by 47% of the students. Other factors which were often indicated as being the most important were: location (18%), tuition cost (22%), and type of institution (11%).



INTRODUCTION

The American College Testing Program (ACT) is probably the most widely used testing program by colleges and universities in the Midwest for admission, placement, and counseling purposes. Although many public community colleges in Illinois do not require the ACT test for admission, it is the most often used standardized national test in Illinois community colleges. In addition, many high school students take the ACT test during their junior or senior year in high school prior to deciding which college they want to attend and hence their scores are available even if the college does not require them for admission. For these reasons we would expect the sample in this ACT profile to represent primarily full-time students much more than parttime community college students and students directly out of high school more so than students who are older and have enrolled in the community college. The data in the ACT Class Profile supports these conclusions. For example, 70% of the Fall 1975 Illinois community college freshmen taking the ACT test were 18 or 19 years old and 75% planned to enroll full-time at the college.

This report includes data for 19,716 students who took the ACT test and are enrolled as freshmen in the public community colleges of Illinois during the fall 1975 term. The 19,716 students represents 12% of the total freshmen enrollment and 20% of the full-time freshmen enrollments in the community colleges. Hence, the characteristics presented in this report represent only those community college students who took the ACT test and cannot be generalized to all community college students.



AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF 1975-76 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Table 1 on the opposite page shows the average American College Testing (ACT) scores on the various subtests for the freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges during the Fall 1975 term who took the ACT test. The standard scores on the ACT tests range from a highest possible score of 36 to a low of 1. The national average score for each of the ACT tests is around 18 although it varies slightly among the subtests and 6 mm year to year. The data in Table 1 is presented separately for men and women because there is a marked difference on some of the subtest averages for these two groups. Men obtained higher average scores in natural science, mathematics and social sciences while women obtained higher scores in English. Table 1 provides statewide data for Illinois public community college students which is very useful for local use in analyzing the ACT class profile. The comparison at the local level should take careful consideration about the sample of students who take the ACT tests at the local college. In some cases, when only students to a few select programs are required to take the ACT test, the comparison with state norms may not be too meaningful.

Table 2 shows an analysis of the average ACT standard scores of Illinois public community college students since 1972. We are unable to explain the reasons for the slightly lower ACT scores of this year's freshmen except to point out that the national norms on ACT tests have also gone down slightly during the past year. This topic has received much attention in the news media during the past year. ACT has put out a special research report on this topic entitled ACT Class Profile Report - Enrolled 1975-76 Freshmen - National Norm which presents a very detailed explanation for anyone interested in pursuing this further.



Table 1

MEAN ACT STANDARD SCORES* OF 1975-76 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ACT TEST	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	Total
English	15.5	17.5	16.5
Mathematics	17.2	15.3	16.2
Social Studies	16.9	15.7	16.3
Natural Sciences	20.5	18.8	19.6
Composite	17.7	16.9	17.3
Number of Students	9,528	10,188	19,716

^{*} ACT Scores Range from a High of 36 to a Low of 1.

Table 2

MEAN ACT STANDARD SCORES* OF FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES FROM 1972 THROUGH 1975

ACT TEST	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
English	16.8	17.0	17.0	16.5
Mathematics	17.5	17.6	17.4	16.2
Social Studies	17.5	17.3	17.1	16.3
Natural Sciences	19.3	19.5	19.8	19.6
Composite	17.9	18.0	17.9	17.3
# of Students	23,096	19,747	17,336	19,716

^{*} ACT Scores Range from a High of 36 to a Low of 1.



COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESIMEN WITH STATE AND NATIONAL NORMS

Table 3 on opposite page rhows a comparison of average ACT scores of Illinois public community college Fall 1975 freshmen who took the ACT test with averages obtained by all college bound students in Illinois who took the ACT test during 1974-75 and all college enrolled students in the United States who took the ACT test during 1974-75. This data shows that the average ACT scores of all Illinois college bound students were slightly higher than for the Illinois community college freshmen in all of the subtests. The average ACT scores for all college enrolled students in the United States were slightly lower than for all Illinois college bound students but still higher than the average ACT scores for Illinois public community college students. This data is not at all surprising but simply reflects the fact that the public community colleges of Illinois have "open admission" policies and do not select students on the basis of admission test scores (often the ACT test) as do many four-year colleges and universities.

Table 4 shows comparison of the distribution of ACT composite scores of Illinois community college Fall 1975 freshmen with state and national norms. This analysis shows results similar to Table 3 but in addition, it shows that a substantial percentage of the Fall 1975 freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges had very high academic ability as measured by the ACT test. For example, 2% of these students had ACT scores in the 28 to 36 range, 10% in the 24 to 27 range and 19% in the 20 to 23 range. This accounts for 31% of the Fall 1975 freshmen in the ACT profile who were enrolled in Illinois public community colleges and indicates that these students could have been admitted to most four-year colleges but chose instead to go to a community college. This analysis also shows that the community colleges are serving a student body with very diverse academic ability. Many students are served who scored rather low on the ACT test. In many cases, the community colleges must dedicate special efforts and resources to meet the educational needs of such a diverse population.

In both Tables 3 and 4, mention should be made of the fact that there is a difference in enrolled students and college bound students. The college bound students taking the test indicated they expected to enroll in college in the Fall of 1975 whereas the college enrolled students are those who stually enrolled in the Fall of 1975.



Table 3

A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESHMEN WITH STATE AND NATIONAL NORMS

ACT Test Col		is Community colled Freshmen		linois College nd Students*	National College Enrolled Students		
	<u>Mean</u>	Stan. Dev.	Mean	Stan. Dev.	Mean	Stan. Dev.	
English	16.5	5.1	18.1	5.4	17.6	5.3	
Mathematics	16.2	7.2	18.1	8.2	17.9	7.7	
Social Science	16.3	7.3	17.8	7.6	17.7	7.6	
Natural Science	19.6	5.7	21.2	6.3	21.0	6.4	
Composite	17.3	5.2	18.9	6.0	18.7	5.8	
No. of Students	19	9,716	9	91,948	4	5,222 (10% S	

^{*}ACT High School Profile Report of students taking the ACT test during 1974 and 1975 (Illinois State Composite). Stan. Dev. = Standard Deviation. ** t-test was significant.

Table 4

COMPARISON OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF ACT COMPOSITE SCORES OF

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESHMEN

WITH ALL ILLINOIS COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS AND ALL NATIONAL COLLEGE ENROLLED STUDENTS

ACT Standard Score	Ill. Pub. Comm. Coll. Enrolled Fall 1975 Freshmen	III. College Bound Freshmen	National College Enrolled Freshmen
28-36	2%	6%	5%
24-27	10%	17%	16%
20-23	19%	21%	22%
16-19	26%	22%	23%
12-15	26%	20%	19%
6-11	16%	13%	14%
1-5	1%	1%	1%

^{**} Statistical Test of Significance: To test the statistical significance of the difference between the mean scores of the various groups, a t-test for independent samples was utilized. The value of t for the difference in mean scores between Illinois community college freshmen and all Illinois college bound students was 27.3 which was significant at the .001 level.



SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADES

Another measure of academic ability that is reported in the ACT Class Profile Report is the self-reported high school grades. Although these are self-reported grades which tend to vary from actual grades received in certain cases, studies have shown them to be fairly reliable when used with large samples. Table 5 shown the average high school grades in the subject areas listed for the fall 1975 freshmen who took the ACT test. Of particular interest is the fact that women in this report had higher high school grades than did men, however, men scored higher on the ACT tests than did the women.

Table 5

SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADES FOR 1975-76
FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGES AS INDICATED ON ACT PROFILE

	Men	Women	Total
High School English Grades	2.49*	2.93*	2.72*
High School Mathematics Grades	2.19	2.40	2.30
High School Social Studies Grades	2.60	2.80	2.70
High School Natural Science Grades	2.45	2.64	2.55
Average for the 4 H.S. Grades	2.43	2.69	2.57
* Mean G.P.A. based on a 4 point scale	= (A=4, B=3)	, C=2, D=1)	

Table 6 below shows an analysis of the self-reported high school grades for Illinois public community college freshmen from 1972 through 1975. This analysis shows that the average high school grades of these students have been increasing slightly each year. It is uncertain whether the cause of this increase is more achievement on the part of the students or easier grading on the part of the teachers. A similar phenomena is occurring with college grades in the past few years which is receiving much attention.

Table 6

SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADES FOR FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES AS INDICATED ON ACT PROFILE FROM 1972 THROUGH 1975

	197 2- 73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
High School English Grades	2.49	2.61	2.69	2.72
High School Math Grades	2.12	2.19	2.26	2.30
High School Soc. Stds. Grades	2.54	2.62	2.70	2.70
High School Nat. Sci. Grades	2.36	2.45	2.51	2.55



COMPARISON OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESHMEN WITH STATE AND NATIONAL NORMS

Table 7 shows a comparison of the average high school grades of Illinois public community college Fall 1975 enrolled freshmen who took the ACT test with all Illinois college bound students who took the ACT test during 1974-75 and all college enrolled students in the nation who took the ACT test during 1974-75. The results show that the average high school grades of Illinois public community college Fall 1975 freshmen are lower than both the state and national averages. This result also reflects the "open admissions" policies of the public community colleges of Illinois as opposed to the selective admissions based in part on high school grades.

Table 7

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GRADES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY

COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESHMEN WITH ALL ILLINOIS COLLEGE BOUND

STUDENTS AND ALL NATIONAL COLLEGE ENROLLED STUDENTS

			· ·				
	Illinoi College En	s Community rolled Freshmen		linois College d Students	All National College Enrolled Students		
	Mean	Stan. Dev.	Mean	Stan. Dev.	Mean	Stan. Dev.	
Male	2.43	.62	2.71	.69	2.78	.68	
Female	2.6°	.63	2.87	.66	3.01	.64	
Total	2.57	. 64	2.79	.68	2.90	.67	

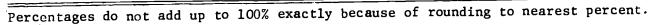
Stan. Dev. = Standard Deviation. * t = 32.8 which was significant at the .001 level.

Table 8 below shows a distribution of the students among the various grade categories. This analysis shows what percentage of the Fall 1975 Illinois community college freshmen had high school grades in each of the grade categories and revealed that 59% of these students had high school grade averages of A or B with an additional 38% having a C grade average. Only 3% of the Fall 1975 Illinois community college freshmen reported a high school grade average of a D.

Table 8

COMPARISON OF THE PERCENTAGE OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESHMEN IN VARIOUS HIGH SCHOOL GRADE CATEGORIES WITH ALL ILLINOIS COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS ALL ALL NATIONAL COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

Grade Point Average	Typical Grade	III. Comm. Coll. Enrolled Freshmen	All Ill. Coll. Bound Students	All National Coll. Enrolled Students
3.50 - 4.00	Ą	11%	22%	27%
2.50 - 3.49	В	48%	50%	50%
1.50 - 2.49	С	38%	27%	2 2%
0.50 - 1.49	D . **	. 3%	2%	1%
0.00 - 0.49	F	0%	0%	0%





SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Table 9 below shows the special educational needs that were indicated by the community college freshmen on the ACT profile. Of particular interest is the large percentage of students who indicate need for assistance in choosing a major (44%), for improving Math skills (56%) and for improving study skills (43%). These special educational needs indicate a special need in the community colleges for adequate counseling services and developmental programs.

Table 9

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF 1975-76 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Special Assistance Needed In:	Men	Women	Total	
Choosing a Major	45%	43%	44%	
Improving Reading Skills	41%	37%	39%	
Improving Math Skills	52%	59%	56%	
Improving Study Skills	45%	41%	43%	
Improving Writing Skills	2 8%	30%	29%	

Table 10 below shows an analysis of the special education needs of freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges who took the ACT test from 1972 through 1975. This analysis shows that the percentage of students who indicated a need for improving math skills, reading skills, and study skills increased during the past few years. It is uncertain whether this increase is caused by a shift in needs or by a change in the sample of the students who take the ACT test.

Table 10

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS
PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES FROM 1972 THROUGH 1975

Special Assistance Needed In:	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	 1975-76
Special Assistance Needed III.	1372-13	19/3-/4	13/4*/3	1373-10
Choosing a Major	41%	38%	39%	44%
Improving Reading Skills	36%	30%	32%	39%
Improving Math Skills	52%	51%	54%	56%
Improving Study Skills	47%	40%	40%	43%
Improving Writing Skills	42%	40%	34%	29%



EDUCATIONAL DEGREE ASPIRATIONS

Table 11 below shows the educational degree aspirations of Illinois public community college fall 1975 freshmen who took the ACT test. The categories shown on the ACT profile represent the highest degree aspirations and do not provide for the step by step progress that many students make in completing first a two-year college degree, then a bachelor's degree, and often later an advanced degree. Hence the data shows 32% of the students aspire to obtain a two-year degree, 7% aspire to obtain a certificate of less than two years in length while 56% of the students aspire a bachelor's degree or higher. This data does not show the great need for short term programs which are in demand by part-time adult students in the public community colleges because the ACT sample is composed primarily of full-time students directly out of high school.

Table 11

EDUCATIONAL DEGREE ASPIRATIONS OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975 FRESHMEN

	MEN	WOMEN	<u>TOTAL</u>
Voc or Tech Program (Less than Two Years)	6%	7%	7%
Two-Year College Degree	27%	37%	32%
Bachelor's Degree	39%	33%	36%
One or Two Years of Grad Study (MA, ABA, Etc.)	10%	9%	10%
Professional Level Degree (Ph.D, MD, LLB, or JD)	12%	8%	10%
Other	6%	6%	6%

EDUCATIONAL MAJORS AND VOCATIONAL CHOICE

Table 12 on opposite page shows the percentage distribution of planned educational majors and first vocational choice fields of Fall 1975 Illinois public community college freshmen who took the ACT test by men, women and total. Of varticular interest is the fact that health and business and commerce professions were equal in popularity as the first vocational choice (18%) of the freshmen taking the ACT test. These two fields were also the most often planned educational majors. Business and commerce area was the most popular educational major (18%) with realth professions second (17%). Also of interest are the differences in the educational majors and first vocational choices between men and women in areas such as health professions, trade, industrial technologies, engineering, education, and agriculture and forestry. It seems that generally students are still choosing educational majors and vocational areas fairly much according to traditional areas by sex. We would expect this to have changed more in recent years with the very active women's liberation movement which we are experiencing. It may be that such changes in career choices will begin to occur in the near future.



PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF PLANNED EDUCATIONAL MAJORS
AND VOCATIONAL CHOICE FIELDS OF
FALL 1975 ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN

	MEN			WOMEN	TOTAL		
	Educ. Major	lst* Voc.	Educ. Major	lst*	Educ. Major	lst* Voc.	
Agric, Forestry, Etc.	10%	10%	2%	2%	6%	6%	
Architecture	4	. 4	2	2	3	3	
Biological Sciences	3	2	2	1	2	1	
Business & Commerce	16	15	20	20	18	18	
Communications	3	3	1	2	2	3	
Computer & Info Sci .	4	4	3	3	3	3	
Education	5	5	14	14	10	9	
Engineering	11	10	O	0	5	5	
ine & Applied Arts	4	4	6	5 i	5	5	
oreign Languages	0	0	1	1	1	0	
Mealth Professions	_{7.} 5	6	2 8	29.	. · 17	18	
lome Economics	0	0	3	3	2	2	
etters (Humanities)	1	1	1	1	1	1	
lathematics	1	1	1	0	1	0	
hysical Science	2	1	0	0	1	1	
ommunity Service	5 ,	6	4	. 5	4	·· . 5	
ocial Sciences	5	4	5	4	5	4	
rade, Indust, Tech	13	15	1	0	· 6	8	
ndecided	7	10	7	8	7	9	

^{*} First Vocational Choice

WHY STUDENTS CHOSE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

With the enrollments in postsecondary education leveling off or declining there is considerable interest in knowing why students choose a particular college to attend. The 1975-76 Freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges who took the ACT tests indicated what they considered to be the single most important factor in making a college choice on the profile. Table 13 below shows a comparison of these responses with 1974-75. The most frequently indicated factor for choosing the community college was "field of study." Location, tuition cost and type of institution were also frequently mentioned. This analysis indicates that students are choosing the community colleges primarily because they are offering the programs that they are interested in pursuing and secondarily because of location in their own community and lower tuition costs.

Table 13

COMPARISON OF SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAKING COLLEGE CHOICE BY
1974-75 FRESHMEN AS COMPARED TO 1975-76 FRESHMEN
IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON ACT PROFILE

	Percentage of	of Students
Factors in Making Choice	Indicating as Mos	st Important Factor
	1974-75	1975-76
Field of Study	47%	-47 %
Tuition Cost	21%	22%
Location	16%	18%
Type of Institution	12%	11%
Student Body Composition	2%	1%
Enrollment Size	1%	1%
Other Activities	1%	3%

^{*} Percentages do not add up to 100% which may be due to the fact that some of the students listed more than one factor as being most important.

A comparison of factors in making a college choice for the past two years shows that tuition cost, location and other activities are the factors that increased in importance in making a college choice during 1975.



RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND

Table 14 below shows a distribution of Fall 1975 Illinois Community College Freshmen who took the ACT test by racial or ethnic background. Although various minorities are represented in this distribution, the Fall 1975 Enrollment Report of community college students indicates that the community colleges are serving a much larger proportion of minority students than shown in this ACT Profile. For example, 17.4% of the students enrolled in Illinois public community colleges indicated they were Afro-American as compared to 4% of the students taking the ACT test. The Spanish American category was indicated by 13.8% of the total enrolled students whereas only 1% of the students taking the ACT test reported being Spanish American. This suggests that a smaller proportion of minority students take the ACT tests while in high school or prior to enrolling at the community college.

Table 14

RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND

OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1975
FRESHMEN TAKING THE ACT TEST

Racial o: Ethnic Background	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Afro-American	3%	4%	4%
Indian American	1%	2%	1%
Caucasian American	65%	69%	67%
Mexican American	1%	1%	1%
Oriental American	0%	1%	0%
Puerto Rican or Spanish Speaking American	0%	0%	0%
Other	4%	4%	4%
Prefer not to Respond	10%	9%	9%
Not Given	15%	11%	13%

There is very little change in the racial or ethnic background in Fall, 1975 from the Fall, 1974 distribution. The percentage of Caucasian has decreased stightly from 72% in 1974 to 67% in 1975. The 'Not Given' Category increased from 7% to 13% in 1975. This increase in the 'Not Given' Category may account for the slight decreases in the Caucasian, Oriental American and Puerto Rican or Spanish Speaking American Categories.



ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME OF FALL 1975 ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Table 15 shows a summary of the family incomes of 1975-76 Freshmen as estimated by the student on the ACT profile. Although 12 percent of the students indicated that they did not know their family incomes and another 25 percent considered this information confidential, the data provided are useful for comparative purposes for the individual community colleges.

Table 15

ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME OF 1975-76 FRESHMEN
ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES
AS INDICATED ON THE ACT PROFILE

				Cumulative Per-
Estimated		· [Percent of	cent of Those
Annual	Number	Percent	Those Indi-	Indicating
Family	of	cf all	cating Esti-	Estimated
Income	Students	Responding	mated Income	Income
Less than		200	4%	4%
\$ 3,000	543	3%	4%	4%
	047	5	8	12
3,000-5,999	967	,	Ĭ	· ••
- < 000 7 /00	736	4	6	18
6,000-7,499	/30	"		
7,500-8,999	1,045	5	9	27
/, <u>5</u> 00-0,555	1,045			•
9,000-11,999	2,443	12	20	47
, 000-11, 777	2,443			
12,000-14,999	2,691	14	22	69
12,000 11,777				•
15,000-19,999	2,146	11	17	86
15,000 1,,,,,				
20,000 and				60
Over	1,748	9	14	100%
		4		•
		•		
Subtotal	(12,319)	(63)	100%	
•				
				•
Considered				•
Confidential	5,010	25		
Do Not Know	2,3 87	12		
m- + - 1	10 716	100%		
Total	19,716	100%		
			<u> </u>	



FINANCIAL AID NEEDS

Table 16

Table 16 shows the comparison of the Fall 1974 Illinois Community College Freshmen with 1975 Freshmen responding to the ACT item dealing with expected financial aid needed by them to help meet college expenses. One-half (50%) of all community college freshmen indicated that they would apply for financial assistance with an additional 56% indicating they expected to work while in college and would like some assistance in locating employment. This indicates a substantial need for college placement services for students who seek part-time work while they are in college in addition to serving the needs of students after they complete their education at the community college.

COMPARISON OF FINANCIAL AID NEEDS AND WORK EXPECTATIONS OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1974 FRESHMEN WITH 1975 FRESHMEN AS INDICATED ON THE ACT PROFILE

	<u>1974-75</u>			<u>19</u>		
	Men	Women	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	Women	<u>Total</u>
Expects to Apply for Financial Aid	54%	55%	55%	49%	52 %	50%
Expects to Work While in College and Would Like Help Finding Employment	44%	43%	44%	57%	56%	56%

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